

## MSA McGill General Policies

### **1) Ramadan Start and Eid's**

To avoid confusion, and following scientific advancement to achieve high-level certainty in realizing the meaning of the Hadith: "صوموا لرؤيته و أفطروا لرؤيته", MSA McGill follows the opinion in favor of the “global moon sighting” and “astronomical calculations” in determining the lunar calendar, especially regarding the start of Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr. Eid al Adha is set to be the Day of ‘Arafa in Mecca that is affirmed by a proper means. In case of the unfortunate division of the community, MSA McGill may choose to hold the Eid prayers on the second day of Eid for sake of inclusiveness.

### **2) Handing out Quran Books with Arabic text**

According to scholars, it is forbidden by Islamic Law to give Quran (or verses of Quran) in Arabic text to non-Muslims because of the supreme sanctity of the Quranic revelation in Arabic text. Hence, the MSA policy is to **strictly refrain** from handing out Quran books that contain Arabic text (partially or fully) to non-Muslims. For purpose of Da`wa, only English/French text interpretations of the Quranic meanings are to be given out (on request, in events...) provided that: it is made clear for non-Muslims that *The English/French Quran Translation books are merely a “brief interpretation of the meanings of the Arabic Quran according to one possible way of understanding. It is not guaranteed that the message conveyed in languages other than Arabic is accurate. Hence, the use of the word “translation” here is loose, and one cannot rely on a translation in deriving conclusions, rulings, and creed or even to comprehensively understand the profound meanings of Quran. Rather, it is a good step to gain a general sense of the message of Islam. For a Muslim or non-Muslim to comprehend Quran, the laws and rulings and other details stated in its verses, one must consult authentic Islamic sources such as respected Muslim scholars, or consult Islamic organizations that can provide guidance on where to obtain accurate understanding”*

### **3) External reservations**

External reservation requests for events organized by other institutions external to McGill are subject to MSA inquiry before approval (if to be granted). Such requests are to be accompanied with comprehensive description of the event (speaker, biography of speaker, subject of speech, goals behind event, target audience...) then be raised to Finance and/or Administrative coordinators for approval. The coordinators analyze the request and inform the Amir of their pre-authorized decision. If it needs to, the Amir can reverse the pre-authorized decision based on the event's accordance with MSA McGill foundations, policies, and Da`wa-based activity – after consultation with authentic references if needed (*check ideology and orientation section on the website*).

#### ***4) Recording events***

It is the policy of MSA McGill to audio-record all speaker events and workshops, and it is the obligation of MSA McGill to communicate this policy to participants/guests of these events. Halaqa's series & Jumu'a Khutba's might also be recorded with the permission of the speaker. The purpose behind the audio-recordings is to archive them in the MSA library for continuous benefit of the MSA members. Recorded media may be chosen to be uploaded online on the MSA website, temporarily or permanently, with the speaker's permission. MSA should invest to acquire the needed instruments for digital audio-recording or use the media services offered by McGill media centers.

#### ***5) Answering media***

Requests to speak to media (media conference, radio, newspapers, journalists...) regarding different issues (Musallah, political, international...) are to be deferred to MSA spokesman/woman, unless otherwise authorized. MSA McGill reserves the right of refraining from public statement on certain issues, or choosing to postpone replying back to further notice for sake of contemplation and decision. This is meant to serve the well-being and reputation of MSA McGill and avoid falling in un-intended troubles.

#### ***6) Answering people about objections on events or MSA activities, requests***

All objections on MSA events or activities or requests by Muslim community and non-Muslims are to be re-directed to Amir by submitting written memo and delivered into the Amir's box that is set up in the MSA office/Musallah and Jumu'a's

#### ***7) Sponsoring MSA people for training on services and tasks***

MSA McGill follows the policy of sponsoring or refunding MSA shura members for attending training workshops that are relevant to MSA functionality and decided to be mandatory to attend. MSA McGill may choose to subsidize attending events/workshops by shura members if the events are deemed useful and specific to MSA functionality but not mandatory. Final decision is made by Amir after consultation with shura members and other resources if needed.

#### ***8) Participating in political events or events that support certain propaganda, interfaith dialogue***

MSA McGill is a non-political Muslim club with religious orientation that is founded for the sole purpose of providing services to Muslims students in McGill University and Islamic Da'wa-based activity – Da'wa in the broad sense. MSA McGill reserves the right to not adopt, nor participate in, nor support certain activity or event that is of political nature, especially in case of invitation from organizations/clubs that are considered suspicious of supporting anti-Islamic propaganda.

MSA McGill acknowledges that interfaith dialogue is only a platform to present religious perspective on different general issues, and not to discuss, compromise on or debate specific Islamic jurisprudence issues. Invitations to join, support, or adopt religious events or activities that promote interfaith dialogue have to be analyzed for pro's and con's first. Based on the results of the assessment, MSA McGill may accept such an invitation at its sole discretion with the conditions that 1) it does not harm the MSA's priorities or activities, 2) resources are available, and 3) MSA McGill is not required to be apologetic, vague or compromising Islamic values and principles.